

Figure 2.42

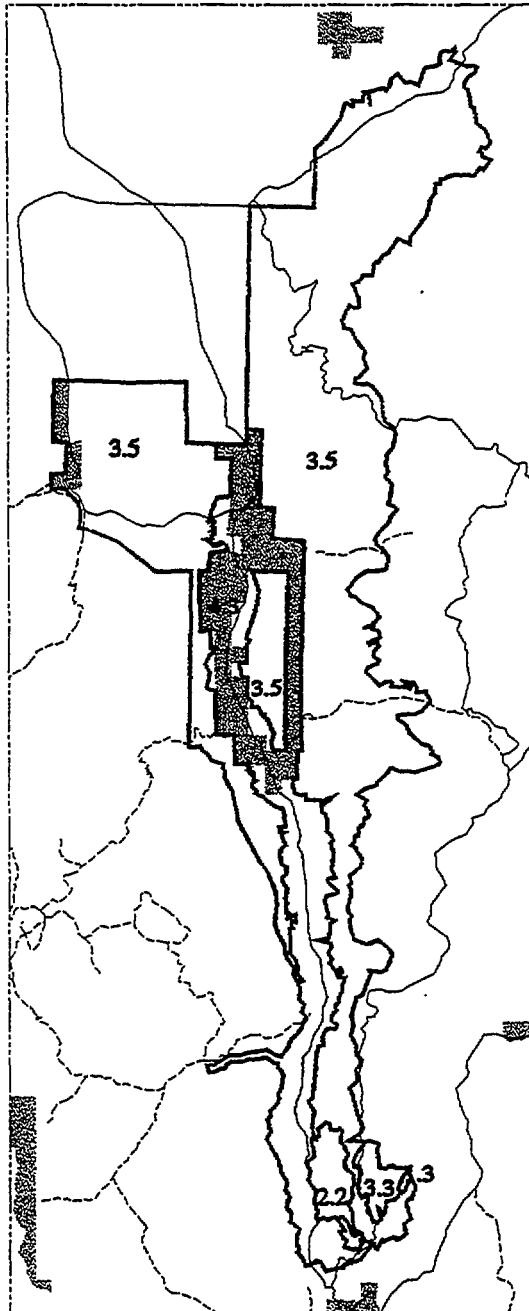
Laramie River Valley Geographic Area

27,822 NFS Acres 3,042 Non-NFS Acres 30,865 Total Acres






Management Area Prescription Allocation

1.3 - Backcountry Recreation	
2.2 - Research Natural Areas	
3.3 - Backcountry Recreation - Motorized	
3.5 - Forested Flora or Fauna Habitats-Limited Management	
4.3 - Dispersed Recreation	

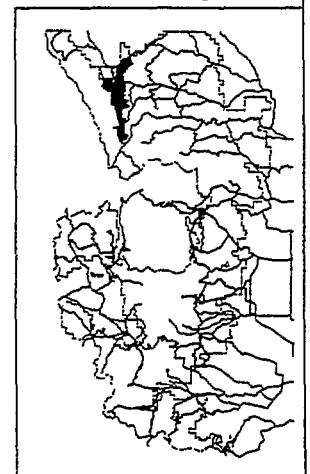
NFS Acres
21
550
365
22,948
3,937



Legend

-  Not NFS Lands
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Utility Corridors (0.00 Mi.)
-  Electronic Sites

Locator Map



Scale 1:200,000
0 1
Miles



LARAMIE RIVER VALLEY GEOGRAPHIC AREA

Setting

The area is located in the northwest corner of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests. The valley is approximately two hours west of Fort Collins, via Colorado Highway 14. Elevations range from 8,000 to 9,800 feet. Vegetation is a mix of sagebrush and grass at lower elevations progressing to lodgepole pine, aspen, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir at higher elevations. Limited amounts of ponderosa pine are also present on west facing slopes. Moose populations are increasing. Historical amphibian habitat occurs in this area.

Vegetation management, consisting primarily of post and pole cutting for local ranches, has occurred throughout most of the area for the past 100 years. Recent harvesting has been primarily in the form of small- to moderate-scale sales. Early and late structural stages are underrepresented in all tree-cover types. The aspen cover type is being encroached on by conifers as the stands increase in age. Wildfire occurrence is infrequent but stand-replacement wildland fires have occurred in the lodgepole pine type. The Skyline and Rawah water division ditches have been in continuous use since their construction in the early 1900s. There are four livestock grazing allotments, one of them vacant. Two private resorts provide horseback riding opportunities on National Forest land. Recreational use (both motorized and nonmotorized) is high during most of the year, and continues to increase. There are some developed trailheads and campgrounds within the area.

The current transportation system's primary access routes are Colorado State Highway 14 and Laramie River Road (Larimer County Road 103).

Goals and Desired Conditions

Manage vegetation to maintain the needed mix of wildlife habitat, reduce fuel loadings and enhance scenic characteristics. Maintain solitude and forage for wintering wildlife species in the northern portion of the area. Timber harvest is probable in the North Middle Mountain and Stub Creek areas. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory and mixed/variable fires) may be implemented as the primary vegetation manipulation tool in the southern half and on the steep valley rim. Maintain current amounts of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, spruce fir and mountain grassland shrub cover types. Increase the amount of aspen through vegetation management in the lodgepole pine type. Emphasize old-growth recruitment and retention.

Maintain healthy willow communities in areas used by moose.

Pursue opportunities to improve instream conditions in the Laramie composite watershed, which was rated Class III in the watershed-condition assessment. Improve fish habitat and fishing access and provide watchable wildlife areas along the Laramie River Road. Provide and protect osprey nesting sites.

The wildland fire management strategy is perimeter control.

Manage rangelands toward desired plant communities and management objectives as outlined in management plans for specific allotments.

Close the Middle Mountain grazing allotment, currently vacant, because of lack of water for livestock.

Reduce or eliminate environmental or visual-impact problems by closing or designating dispersed sites.

Nonsystem roads already inventoried may be added to the existing transportation system for motorized opportunities. Close all other nonsystem roads. Nonmotorized recreational opportunities including horseback riding, mountain biking, and hiking may be provided on existing travelways which have been closed to motorized use. Roads and trails causing resource damage may be closed.

Implement seasonal road closures to protect wildlife habitat and resources during critical periods of the year.

Management Area 2.2

Emphasize Research Natural Area.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Allow natural processes to be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure. The wildland fire management strategy is prescription control. Prepare a fire management plan for the Research Natural Area to specify conditions under which wildland fires may be managed by prescription control and to design specific prescribed fires.

Discourage additional recreational uses in the area.

Management Area 3.3

Emphasize motorized backcountry recreation.

Timber harvest is not allowed. Accept insect and disease losses. Allow natural processes to be the primary actions that affect the vegetation mix and structure. Prescribed fire (including nonlethal understory, mixed/variable and stand-replacement fires) may be implemented to maintain a natural landscape, increase habitat potential and control fuel accumulations.

Accommodate motorized use during the summer and fall seasons on the existing transportation system. Motorized winter travel will be on designated and maintained travelways. Consider closure of roads and trails that cause resource damage or are in excess of National Forest

System needs. Opportunities for nonmotorized loop trails may be created to expand and distribute use over the whole year.

Management Area 3.5

Emphasize wildlife habitat.

Consider maintenance of amphibian habitat in all resource activities.

Maintain big-game solitude along the valley rim on the east and west sides of the valley.

Nonsystem roads already inventoried may be added to the existing transportation system for motorized opportunities. Close all other nonsystem roads. Nonmotorized recreation opportunities including horseback riding, mountain biking, and hiking may be provided on existing travelways which have been closed to motorized use. Roads and trails causing resource damage may be closed.

Designate and maintain winter travelways for both motorized and nonmotorized uses. Consider opportunities for creating nonmotorized loop trails to expand and distribute use over the whole year.

Implement seasonal road closures to protect wildlife habitat and resources during critical periods of the year.

Management Area 4.3

Emphasize dispersed recreation.

Limited timber harvest is suitable and available in the Laramie River Road corridor to improve wildlife habitat, reduce fuel loadings or enhance recreational opportunities.

Reduce environmental damage to the Green Ridge Trail and the areas around Lost, Laramie, and Twin Lakes by using seasonal road closures or other restrictions. Increase parking capacity at the Rawah Trailhead. Explore opportunities to provide loop trails for nonmotorized users.

Improve facilities at the West Branch Trailhead. Improve access to National Forest lands on the east side of the Laramie River Valley.

Use temporary access roads, where necessary, to achieve fuels reduction, improve wildlife habitat, produce timber products, enhance scenic qualities, and rehabilitate landscape elements; close roads once the activity is completed.

Travel Management Strategy, Laramie River Valley Geographic Area

Management Area	Mode	Existing System	Convert Ways	New Rds/Trls	Extent of Additions	Extent of Obliterations
1.3	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	N	N	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	N
2.2	4WD	N	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	N	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	N	N	N	N
3.3	4WD	Y	N	N	N	N
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	N
3.5	4WD	Y	Y	N	L	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	Y	M	N
	WNM	Y	Y	Y	L	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	L
4.3	4WD	Y	Y	N	L	L
	MTR	N	N	N	N	N
	WMT	Y	N	N	N	N
	WNM	Y	N	N	N	N
	NMT	Y	Y	Y	L	N

